Early Literacy
Not Another Name For Preschool in the Library

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grow. learn. connect.

What is Early Literacy

ALA describes it as:

- **Not** early reading instruction or teaching preschoolers to read
- Natural development of skills through enjoyment of books and positive interactions between babies and their parents
- Everything children know about reading and writing BEFORE they actually learn to read and write.

http://www.ala.org/united/products_services/booksforbabies/earlyliteracy

Early Literacy Skills

- **Print Motivation**

- **Print Awareness**

- **Vocabulary**

- **Narrative Skills**

- **Letter Knowledge**

- **Phonological Awareness**

Serious Gaps Exist

▶ 34 percent of children starting kindergarten in Virginia lag behind in one or more critical learning domains*

▶ 11 percent lack essential literacy skills*

▶ 30 million word gap
  ◦ Both quantity and quality matter

  ◦ *Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Project (2015) commissioned by the General Assembly. Study conducted by researchers at the University of Virginia.

At what age does talking to a child begin to support the development of their language skills?

- Birth
- 3 months
- 6 months
- 1 year

At what age does reading aloud to a child begin to build language skills?

➢ 6 months
➢ 1 year
➢ 18 months
➢ 2 years

The most rapid brain development in a child happens between:

➢ Birth and 3 years old
➢ 2 and 4 years old
➢ 3 and 5 years old

Project Views2

- Four year study conducted by iSchool of the University of Washington, funded by grants from the IMLS and LSTA, found:

  ◦ Librarians include a wide variety of early literacy content in storytimes

  ◦ Children in storytimes demonstrate early literacy behaviors

  ◦ Children in storytimes respond to the early literacy content

  ◦ When librarians trained to intentionally focus on early literacy content, children demonstrated increased early literacy behaviors

Every Child Ready to Read

- ECRR 1st edition
  - Well-regarded program, focused on early literacy skills
  - Parent and caregiver education had demonstrable impact on child readiness

- ECRR 2nd edition
  - Simpler format using early literacy practices
  - Focus on education of caregiver

- Basis for early literacy tips and activities

ECRR 2 Practices

The things you do to promote early literacy skills:

- Talking
- Singing
- Writing
- Playing
- Reading

Virginia State Library Initiatives

- ‣ Milestones Planning Tool
  - ◦ Based on *Milestones of Child Development*
  - ◦ Developed by Saroj Ghoting for Supercharged Storytimes course, made possible in part by IMLS grant.
- ‣ 1000 Books Before Kindergarten & BookPoints
  - ◦ Building in early literacy activities
- ‣ DayByDayVA.org
- ‣ Training and materials
- ‣ Early Literacy Activity Centers
- ‣ Summer and Winter Reading Programs
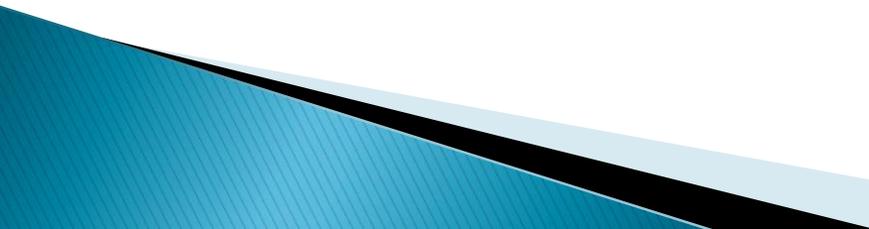
Storytime and Beyond

- Informal learning environment – not preschool
- Intentional preparation to maximize early literacy content
- Not just for children to learn – educating parents and caregivers. But keep it short and simple.
- 1000 Books Before Kindergarten
- Babies Need Words

1000 BOOKS
BEFORE KINDERGARTEN
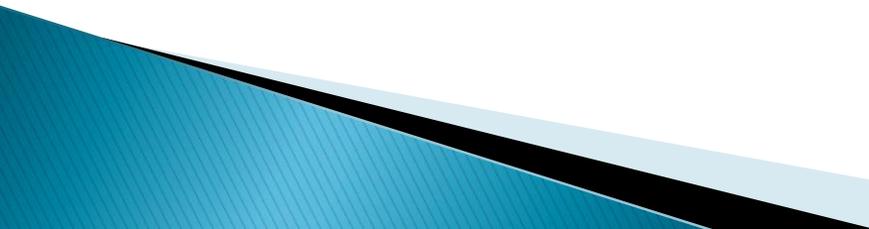
B U I L D A
R E A D E R

Early Literacy Tip -- Talking:
Babies start to develop language skills from the day they are born. When we talk to children, we help them build their vocabulary and learn how language works.

Bonus Activity:
As you go about your daily tasks, getting dressed, going shopping, or doing household chores, talk to your little one and describe what you are doing.

Visit DaybyDayVa.org or ask at the library for more ideas of activities that promote early literacy skills.

- If you read to more than one child at once, the book can be included on each sheet.
- If you read the same book to the same child more than once, you can color in a square each time.
- Include books read to your child by anyone -- older siblings, grandparents, childcare providers, storytime librarians.

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NAME:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

How the Program Works:

1. Pick up your first reading log at any JMRL location or download it from the JMRL kids page: jmrl.org/kids.

2. Color a square on the log for every book you read.

3. After reading 50 books, bring your reading log to the library and receive a folder to hold all of your program materials, a new log and a sheet to track your progress.

4. After 100 books you will receive a tote bag and a sticker for your tracking sheet.

5. When you reach 1,000 books you will receive a free book and a certificate.

6. Get an extra sticker for doing the early literacy activity on each log and an extra prize when you finish the program.

Spreading the Word

- Be sure message is clear internally
- Develop strategy to convey message in library promotional materials– clear talking points
- Identify your target audience or audiences
- Identify and develop community partnerships
- Connect with community service organizations, especially those that focus on promoting literacy
- Organizations serving non-English-speaking communities

Resources

- http://www.everychildreadytoread.org/
- http://www.ala.org/alsc/babiesneedwords
- http://www.ala.org/advocacy/literacy/earlyliteracy
- http://www.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/ldnd/early-literacy/
- Saroj Ghoting – http://www.earlylit.net/
- Zero to Three – https://www.zerotothree.org/
- VLA Youth Services Forum – network & share ideas
- Storytime Underground: http://storytimeunderground.org/
- Views2 study– http://views2.ischool.uw.edu/

Thank you!

Feel free to contact me:

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